

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

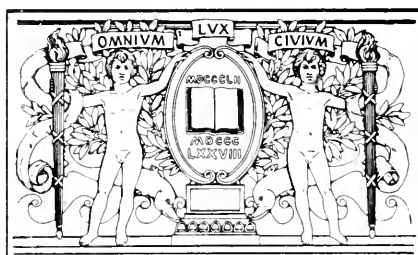
1971

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**BOSTON
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**



DOCUMENT 15 -- 1972



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
For the Year Ending December 31, 1971

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Term expires April 30, 1970

PHILIP J. McNIFF
Director, and Librarian

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To the Board of Trustees of the Boston Public Library:

As Director, and Librarian, I have the honor to submit my report for the year January 1 to December 31, 1971.

The year under review saw much attention given to the expansion of the General Library book collection in preparation for the opening of the Addition to the Central Library in the fall of 1972. The selection, ordering, receipt and processing of the thousands of books, periodicals, records, films and other library materials necessary to meet the goals established for the new General Library have required the highest degree of cooperation within and between units of the staff. At the year's end, substantial progress had been made in setting up the new general reference and periodical collections. Some 80,000 volumes had been added to the circulating collection and selection had been completed for the enlarged record collection, the children's resource collection, and for music, fine arts, science, and the social sciences.

The year saw several innovations to provide better interim service in the Central Library. The card catalogs of the General Library's adult and juvenile collections were substantially converted from Dewey to Library of Congress classification; cards for the books processed for the new library, though stored in the Service Building at 380 Bunker Hill Street, Charlestown, were interfiled; teletype communication between the Central Library and the Service Building was established; and a daily delivery service for requested material was set up. This recall system satisfied a tremendous number of readers with minimum inconvenience.

Registration records indicate that 259,429 residents of Boston held borrowers' cards. While there was an increase in circulation at the Central Library and the newer branches, there was over-all a small decrease in branch library circulation. Bookmobile service was plagued by major breakdowns in automotive equipment and a request for funds to replace two of the bookmobiles is included in the 1972 budget.

Circulation is but one measure of library activity; in-house use of services, reference inquiries, programs to bring book and reader, film and viewer, or record and listener together all contribute to the social and cultural impact which the Library makes on the community.

GENERAL LIBRARY SERVICES

The report of the General Library Services for 1971 indicates that service to adults maintained its vigorous variety of programming. The Never Too Late activity was well received and deeply appreciated both in the branches and in the Central Library. The new Fields Corner Branch had a core membership of 150 participants and Never Too Late programs at Grove Hall highlighted activity in this new facility. Central Library programs included:

"Come Speak Your Mind!" Group forum to discuss the

issue for the 1971 White House Conference
on the Aging

"When The Trolleys Came to Boston": Bradley Clarke,
President, Boston Street Railway Association

"A City Councilman Looks at Boston": Thomas Atkins

"A View from the Inside - Massachusetts Correc-
tional Institution, Norfolk": Rev. Ralph Tucker,
Assistant Chaplain

"A Different Frontier - Service in the Ghetto":
John T. Hough, Jr., Author and Vista Volunteer

"Old-Time Theatre Sing-Along" Featuring Jack Hyde,
Pianist

"Haiti: The Colorful Island": Royal Cloud, Presi-
dent, Boston Center for the Arts

Two teams conducting national surveys of service to the elderly studied both the Central Library and branch library programs. Mothers' discussion groups, an Investment Discussion Group, a pioneering Preparation for Retirement program, and a Street Fair are illustrative of the Library's group services to its adult public.

The Young Adult Services used programs within the Library, co-sponsored programs with community groups, and arranged school visits and class visits to the branches to generate the interest of teenagers in the many services which are available to meet their special needs. In cooperation with the Boston School Department, library-centered projects were planned for students involved in the "released-time" or "flexible campus" program. Working with coordinators of twelve City high schools, the Library designed several dynamic activities in art, local history, literature, and audio-visual fields for students working and studying outside the traditional classroom walls.

Special programs for the elderly, children, teenagers, parents, and for citizens in general attracted more than 100,000 people to 1,088 meetings. Some 1,200 film showings at branches and 1,600 film loans to Boston schools are included in the 27,990 film loans from the Audio-Visual Department. More than 921,000 people attended these film showings.

Services to children offered 582 branch library programs, 631 film showings, 123 story hours, 687 indoctrination visits to the Library, and 1,494 visits to classrooms. In addition, the bookmobile service reached 6,854 classrooms.

Involvement with community groups is a major concern of branch library staffs. Increasingly the needs of ethnic groups enter into the picture and influence the types of programs and services to be offered. Among the special outreach

programs is the new Multilingual Library established with the assistance of a Federal Library Services and Construction Act grant. This new store front facility is the outgrowth of an earlier outreach program, the Biblioteca Latina, set up three years ago, also with the aid of an LSCA grant. The Multilingual Library supplements the services of the new South End Branch. It hopes to build bridges of understanding and to provide easily accessible, informal library service to the various linguistic groups living in the South End. Materials currently available -- books, periodicals, newspapers, recordings -- include the following languages: Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Greek, Japanese, Arabic, Armenian and Italian.

A second LSCA grant provided a HomesModule service to "shut-ins" in private homes, rest homes and nursing homes. Books, film showings, listening services, and professional reading counseling have contributed greatly to the lives of many handicapped citizens. Large-print books play an important role in service to readers with failing vision. The Library's rapidly growing collection services the branches and the regional library program as well as the Homesmobiles. In furthering the program, the Library plans to enlist institutions such as the Boston Center for Older Americans and Companions Unlimited of the Women's Educational and Industrial Union.

Special note should be made of the 100th anniversary of the East Boston Branch Library, the first branch library to be established in the United States. Community programs for children, young adults and adults signaled this event. A special exhibit featured pictures, books and newspaper clippings about Old East Boston as well as models of famous historic ships.

The Grove Hall Branch Library and its neighbor Freedom House combined to stage the 1972 Black History Month program, "Roxbury Showcase, Right On into the Seventies", a panorama of the social, economic and cultural programs and projects being carried out by Roxbury community agencies, organizations and institutions. The major program in this annual observance has been jointly sponsored since 1965 by the Boston Public Library and more than a dozen Black community organizations.

RESEARCH LIBRARY SERVICES

The in-depth profile study of the collection, which was begun last year, continued apace and by the end of the year subjects covered included anthropology, business and accounting, national bibliographies, government documents and statistics, architecture, graphic arts, music, maps, picture collection, English and American literature, little magazines, newspapers, American history, photography, philosophy and religion, and microform materials.

Each subject was reviewed as to the existing strength in the Library collection, the state of the art in general, the recommended level of coverage by the Boston Public Library,

and the budgetary implications. This study emphasized the need to relate the development of specific subject collections to the coordinated growth of the total collection.

Several major advances in the documents area took place in 1971. In June the Boston Public Library was designated the Regional Deposit Library for U.S. documents in Massachusetts and in October it became a full United Nations Depository Library. The regional responsibility for U.S. documents was formerly held by the Massachusetts State Library. The World Peace Foundation, in addition to assisting in having its United Nations depository status transferred to the Boston Public Library, turned over to the Library its entire file of United Nations and related publications, thus assuring the uninterrupted documentation of international organizations since the end of World War II. Archival papers in the custody of the City Clerk were also deposited in the Library.

The cooperation of neighboring libraries continues to strengthen the collections and services of the Boston Public Library. The Museum of Fine Arts contributed its files of more than 60,000 mounted pictures; the American Antiquarian Society transferred its post-1870 collection of American city directories, as well as a collection of State documents; a consortium of private universities (Boston College, Boston University, Brandeis and Tufts) contributed two-thirds of the cost of an extensive microfilm file of German Foreign Ministry documents. The 5,162 reels, acquired from the National Archives, are in the Library's microtext collection.

In cooperation with the Bicentennial Committee of the Eastern Regional Library System, an exhibit on the American Revolution was prepared for the annual New England Book Festival sponsored by the Boston Globe. The Library also mounted a display of facsimiles of early American newspapers. In recognition of the festival theme, the role of newspapers and public information, the Library published a special bibliography entitled The Public Interest and the Right to Know: Access to Government Information and the Role of the Press, a Selective Bibliographical Guide.

The preliminary edition of Serials Currently Received in the Boston Public Library represents the first step toward up-to-date bibliographical control of serials. It serves as a most useful reference tool and provides the data necessary for a systematic review of the serial program.

The Rare Books and Manuscripts Department reports that it registered some 1,500 visitors representing all sections of the country as well as Canada and abroad. Topics under investigation ranged from alchemy to the Women's Christian Temperance Union, although the chief single interest was in the Library's anti-slavery materials.

Some 900 printed items, including three incunables, were added to the collections. Noteworthy manuscript additions included papers of Harriet Lothrop; account book of Charles Apthorp (1698-1758); manuscripts of Edwin O'Connor, the gift of his widow; 35 letters of General "Chinese" Gordon; and a substantial lot of letters of Reynaldo Hahn, the French composer.

The Library was host for one of the sessions of the International Congress of Bibliophiles. In addition to mounting an appropriate exhibition for the occasion, a facsimile keepsake of George Santayana's earliest work, Lines On Leaving the Bedford St. Schoolhouse, was distributed.

In addition to publications already cited, a descriptive catalog, Canadian Manuscripts in the Boston Public Library, was published by G. K. Hall. Approval was also given by the Trustees to have published a book catalog of the music collection. The Library was joint publisher with the Peabody Museum of Salem of John Wilmerding's Robert Salmon. The year also included the publication of a checklist of American political manuscripts, 1774-1940, prepared by the Curator of Manuscripts; Sparks: Science Projects, Avenues of Research and Keys to Science, prepared by the Science Reference staff; and the 4th edition of the Film Catalog which describes the more than 2,800 films available in the Audio-Visual Department. A special list of films in Spanish, Películas en Español, was prepared for the Spanish community.

The Print Department celebrated its 30th anniversary with an exciting array of exhibitions both in the Wiggin Gallery and in the various Newbury Street galleries:

Children's Book Illustration and Book Design
by Blair Lent

Sightlines, photographs by Elsa Dorfman,
Kipton Kumber, and Jaye Phillips

Cool power: Contemporary Prints from the
Boston Public Library

Thirty Years of the Wiggin Collection

American Prints, portraits of famous statesmen and
generals of the Revolutionary period and
early America landscapes

Watercolors, paintings by Andre Boules, S.J.,
French artist

Robert Salmon's Boston - prints and reproductions
of paintings by Salmon and his contemporary
artists during his residence in Boston,
1828-1842

Eric Gill, woodcuts and woodengravings - a
salute to the Society of Printers

The Library is indebted to its many friends for the many gifts received. Institutions as well as individuals assist the Library in building up its resources. Among the institutions presenting materials this year were the Essex

Institute of Salem, Leominster Public Library, Memorial Hall Library of Andover, Lexington's Cary Memorial Library, and the Osterville Free Library. The First National Bank has given the Library four large canvases painted by Newell Converse Wyeth. The paintings depict Phoenician biremes, Elizabethan galleons, Yankee clipper ships and a tramp steamer.

Among individual donors Mr. Paul Doguereau of Cambridge and the Mason Music Foundation gave his personal collection of books and music recordings, and Miss Anna E. Roth of Franklin donated the M. C. Crane collection of folk music. Mr. Ralph L. Thompson of Washington, D.C. presented his collection of early Boston playbills and Mr. Theodore Drury gave books on business and accounting. Original sketches were received from local artists Bob Howard and Frederick Kuhn, and Allan R. Crite, the distinguished Black artist, added several portfolios of his series of Christmas paintings to earlier contributions.

EASTERN REGIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE

The extension office in Fall River was transferred to Taunton; a supplementary film deposit was established at the North Reading Extension Center; bookmobile service to the Middlesex House of Correction was instituted with materials selected by inmate volunteers; in January Boston began regional delivery service three times a week to 14 communities and two times a week to 15 communities; Wellesley's delivery service to libraries in its area began in April and in May Quincy's program for 30 communities was started; in addition to the work of a Bicentennial Committee mentioned earlier in this report, it should be noted that exploration of a co-operative cataloging program was instituted by another regional committee.

As in the past several years, the Headquarters Library has greatly increased and broadened its collection of basic reference and research tools such as printed catalogs of world-important library collections; reprint editions of major sources such as the British Parliamentary Series covering much sought after documents on slavery, crime, and social welfare; extensive out-of-print collections on specific subjects such as Irish history and culture and Afro-American literature; and microtext materials in the following basic categories: newspapers and other serial publications, public documents and official records, archival papers, and specially assembled subject collections.

BUILDINGS

The new South End Branch Library was completed in 1971, the Central Library building was cleaned, and progress on the Central Library Addition was on schedule.

The South End Branch was designed by Mitchell/Giurgola Associates and constructed by the Sabia Construction Company

under the direction of the Public Facilities Department. The new, 9,443 square foot branch library building was opened in 1971. The building, located on a shallow, block-long site on Tremont Street between West Newton and Rutland Streets, presents a careful architectural solution which recognizes the cultural and architectural integrity of the South End of the 1870's and the program needs of a branch library in the 1970's. The exterior of red brick and the two-level height complement the traditional red brick structures and the roof lines of the neighborhood.

The first floor provides space for two clearly defined reading areas, one for adults and young adults, the other for children. Natural light is brought into the reading areas by skylights. Clerestory windows along the West Newton and Tremont Street facades of the building effectively reduce the noise and distraction of traffic on these busy streets. This solution also provides good space for wall shelving, thus keeping to a minimum the number of free-standing bookcases.

The branch library is air-conditioned and carpeted. It is heated by gas. The metal wall shelving and natural oak floor shelving accommodate some 25,000 books. The adult area provides seating for 24 readers at tables and an equal number in lounge chairs. The children's area seats 24 at tables and has very flexible seating capabilities for story hours, pre-school programs, and informal reading. Staff and work quarters are also located on the first floor.

The stairway to the second floor divides the adult area from the children's area. A meeting room, with adjacent storage and kitchen facilities, and a small special activities room occupy the second floor.

Work on the Central Library Addition moved ahead on schedule and is expected to be completed in the fall of 1972. The last piece of steel was added to the framework on March 12, 1971 and the "topping off" ceremony was attended by representatives of the Trustees, the Public Facilities Department, the architects, the general contractor, and consulting engineers.

The cleaning of the exterior of the existing building, arranged by the Public Facilities Department, and the installation of exterior lighting on the Dartmouth Street facade, a special Boston Redevelopment Authority project, set the stage for a Christmas-Hanukkah ceremony on December 13. The music of the St. Paul's Choir School, the lighting of the menorah candle, and the turning on of the lights on the Copley Square facade of the Library at the signal of Mayor Kevin White produced, in the words of a Boston Globe editorial, "a friendly little ceremony that spoke volumes accidentally rich in symbolism...For the noble facade of the library, which is one of this country's architectural treasures (as its contents are intellectual treasures) stood suddenly forth in the night as it had not stood before in all the 76 years it has been embellishing the square. To have rediscovered this loveliness and to have proceeded with dignity and mutual

affection to illuminate it should be a source of pride to Bostonians. Civilization is composed of such acts..."

PERSONNEL

The staff was saddened by the deaths of several staff members in 1971. Thomas J. Manning, under whose kindly direction the Library's exhibits program prospered, died after a lingering illness shortly before his scheduled retirement; Miss Catherine M. MacDonald, who handled the position of Personnel Officer with wisdom and equanimity, died suddenly while on vacation; and Joseph M. Hulme, the efficient chief of the Duplicating Section, collapsed and died at a tragically early age. Mrs. Audrey Cohen, a valued worker in the Cataloging Department, also died suddenly. Edward F. Clonan, a senior building custodian, and Gerald L. Ball, retired curator of Science and Technology, also died during the year.

We must also record the death, after a long illness, of Mrs. Ruth Hill Viguers, author, editor, critic and lecturer on children's literature. Shortly before her death she had given the Library her extensive collection of children's books to be added to the newly established historical collection of children's books.

The year 1971 also saw the retirement of a number of long-term employees who had contributed much to the success of library operations during the past three or four decades. Included in this group were: Miss Elizabeth B. Brockunier, Secretary to the Board of Trustees and Assistant to the Director; Mrs. Elizabeth L. Wright, Assistant to the Director; Mrs. Bridie P. Stotz, Branch Librarian, Charlestown; Mrs. Eleanora N. Chaplik, Branch Librarian, Codman Square; Miss Nura Globus, Branch Librarian, Egleston Square. These officers of the Library were given emeritus status. Other retirees included Miss Martha C. Engler, Mrs. Evelyn Kornmuller, Mrs. Alice E. Driscoll, Mrs. Helen M. Harrington, and Mrs. Bertha S. Keswick.

The Trustees honored at a luncheon two officers who had completed 50 years of service: Miss Ruth M. Hayes, Coordinator of Children's Services and Miss Mary M. McDonough, Chief of Preparation. At the annual meeting honoring those who had completed 25 years of service, the President of the Board of Trustees presented citations and B.P.L. chairs to the following:

Mrs. Anna M. Brackett
Frank J. Gallagher
Mrs. Mary E. Lebert
Frederick N. Rodenmacher
Mrs. Helen A. Scollins

Among the many staff contributions to professional activities could be cited Miss M. Jane Manthorne's service as President, Young Adult Services Division of the American

Library Association; Raymond E. Agler's chairmanship of the ALA's Notable Books Committee; Mrs. Margaret Brown's chairmanship of the Massachusetts Library Association's Adult Services Round Table; and Edward J. Montana, Jr.'s activities in the area of library public relations. Euclid J. Peltier was elected to the Board of Directors of the Education Film Library Association; Miss Mildred C. O'Connor served as Archivist of the Special Libraries Association; John M. Carroll served as Director of the Massachusetts Council for the Humanities; Monsignor Edward G. Murray was elected Vice President of the Urban Library Trustees Council; and John Alden was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, London; the Director participated in a Seminar on Foreign Acquisitions at the University of Wisconsin and was a speaker at the 100th anniversary celebration of the Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield; James Ford continued his editorial and bibliographical work in Irish studies; John Alden addressed the Professional Librarians Association of Queen's University at Kingston, Ontario, Canada; Louis A. Sasso was involved in a cooperative program to provide library careers for minorities (this program involves the Boston Public, Harvard and M.I.T. Libraries and Simmons College).

The year 1971 saw a revision of the state aid law which increased substantially both the direct grants in aid and support for the regional library programs. However, local support is the mainstay of library activities and once again the support of the City authorities is deeply appreciated. I wish to express appreciation to all members of the staff for their cooperation and to the members of the Board of Trustees for their leadership and support.

PHILIP J. McNIFF
Director, and Librarian

Table 1. Circulation

BOOK CIRCULATION

	1970	1971
Central Library	502,795	533,539
Kirstein Business Branch	8,447	9,557
Adams Street	110,172	108,422
Allston	42,703	41,965
Bookmobile Service	268,774	247,087
Brighton	132,175	143,039
Charlestown	50,885	48,524
Codman Square	66,582	54,467
Connolly	49,512	46,242
East Boston	39,876	39,552
Egleston Square	40,259	38,096
Faneuil	44,111	37,977
Fields Corner	105,687	110,246
Grove Hall	21,114	42,029
Hyde Park	116,013	114,695
Jamaica Plain	67,028	64,508
Lower Mills	53,942	53,109
Mattapan	60,242	50,036
*Memorial Bookmobile	1,519	----
#Mt. Bowdoin	15,711	----
Mt. Pleasant	27,753	24,686
North End	39,621	32,727
Orient Heights	34,153	33,789
Parker Hill	43,287	37,655
Roslindale	143,219	130,687
South Boston	83,950	79,789
South End	23,837	27,340
Uphams Corner	51,388	51,218
Washington Village	35,943	33,750
West End	67,000	68,990
West Roxbury	151,179	154,145
Hospital Library Service	27,831	28,278
##Multilingual Library (Biblioteca Latina)	5,998	13,440
Total, Branch Libraries	2,021,464	1,956,488
Total, Entire Library	2,532,706	2,499,584

*Service transferred to Bookmobile Service, March 1, 1970

#Branch closed December 11, 1970

##Biblioteca Latina service transferred to Multilingual Library,
October 13, 1971

NON-BOOK CIRCULATION

	1970	1971
Films and Film Strips	22,344	27,990
Recordings	41,906	42,841
Pictures	11,722	9,463
Totals	75,972	80,294

VOLUMES SENT ON INTERLIBRARY LOAN

	1970	1971
Interlibrary loans	12,404	14,389

Table 2. Growth of the Library

BOOKS

	1970	1971
General Library:		
Volumes added	131,287	156,757
Volumes withdrawn	81,467	61,881
Total on hand December 31	925,881	1,020,757
Research Library:		
Volumes added	103,189	106,943
Volumes withdrawn	1,032	5,641
Total on hand December 31	1,879,889	1,981,191
Total Book Stock	2,805,770	3,001,948

NON-BOOK MATERIALS

	1970	1971
Films	3,042	3,560
Filmstrips	142	160
Recordings	22,124	24,099
Lantern Slides	14,884	14,884
Negatives	2,130	2,130
Pictures	420,511	426,426
Postcards	133,805	133,805
Prints and Drawings	50,255	53,264
Projected Books	178	178
Microcards	11,283	11,283
Microfiche (sheets)	90,837	128,338
Microfilm (reels)	34,759	42,040
Microprints (boxes)	2,994	3,237
	(673,650 shs.)	(728,325 shs.)

Table 3. Cataloging Statistics

	1970	1971
Volumes processed	233,562	278,003
New titles cataloged	58,069	62,868
Original cataloging	11,963	13,373
LC cataloging	46,025	48,119
Rare Book cataloging	81	1,376
Films	350	518
Recordings	6,092	6,474

Table 4. Binding

	1970	1971
Volumes bound	55,756	58,338

Table 5. Library Expenditures

	1970	1971
Salaries and Wages:		
City Appropriation	\$4,729,008.99	\$4,821,322.16
Eastern Regional Public Library System	241,264.07	260,630.65
Trust Funds Income	<u>3,836.05</u>	<u>2,304.82</u>
Total	\$4,974,109.11	\$5,084,257.63
Books and Other Library Materials:		
City Appropriation	\$757,523.54	\$764,603.33
Eastern Regional Public Library System	361,657.09	435,051.10
Trust Funds Income	81,008.10	64,609.74
Gifts for Current Use	5,142.95	23,931.27
Library Services and Construction Act	281,965.48	183,461.27
Book Credits	<u></u>	<u></u>
Total	\$1,487,297.16	\$1,471,656.71
All Other Expenses:		
City Appropriation	\$588,649.29	\$610,539.96
Eastern Regional Public Library System	111,361.56	101,297.98
Trust Funds Income	12,225.15	12,020.84
Library Services and Construction Act	-	30,612.62
Book Credits	<u></u>	<u></u>
Total	\$712,236.00	\$754,471.40
GRAND TOTAL	\$7,173,642.27	\$7,310,385.74

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